

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given to the present application. Withdrawn claims 11-17 are cancelled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Claims 1, 3-10, and 18 are currently pending, of which claims 1 and 3-8 are amended. Claims 1 and 3 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 3-10 as being allowed. The Examiner will note that non-narrowing amendments have been made to each of claims 1, 3-8, and 18 merely to change from “contact portion” to “socket”, from “said” to “the”, and from “moving means” to “moving device”. These change do NOT effect the patentability of allowed claims 3-10.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsutsumi et al. (U.S. 5,629,632). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claim 1

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner’s rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, independent claim 1 has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements direct to an electronic device testing apparatus, including *inter alia*

“the test head has a plurality of socket groups each of which is composed of a set of the sockets;

the electronic device testing apparatus comprising;

a plurality of moving devices each of which is capable of independently moving a strip format loaded with the electronic devices to the socket groups and pressing the electronic devices against the sockets while holding the electronic devices on the strip format,

wherein the electronic devices are moved together with an entirety of the strip format”.

In the Official Action, Examiner states that 18A and 19A in Tsutsumi et al. (U.S. 5,629,632) are equivalent to a plurality of contact groups in independent claim 1 of the present application.

In the present amendment, the word “contact portion” has been changed to “socket”. Accordingly first and second sockets 20A and 20B in Tsutsumi et al. are equivalent to “sockets” in independent claim 1.

Test head 20 has only one socket 20A and another test head 21 has only one socket 21A in Tsutsumi et al. (refer to column 4, lines 36-42). On the other hand, in independent claim 1 of the present application, a test head has a plurality of sockets, and the sockets include a plurality of socket groups.

Accordingly Tsutsumi et al. do not disclose a test head which has a plurality of sockets, and do not disclose socket groups, each of which includes of a plurality of sockets.

Also, in independent claim 1 of the present application, the moving device moves a strip format, and the electronic devices are moved together with the entire strip format.

On the other hand, Tsutsumi et al. disclose that "First and second carrier mechanisms 22 and 23 are provided to carry devices D, which are to be tested" (refer to column 4, lines 43-48). Also the holders 22C and 23C of the carrier mechanism 22 and 23 move electronic devices themselves in Fig. 1 and Fig. 5. of Tsutsumi et al. Therefore, in Tsutsumi et al, a moving device only moves electronic devices themselves, and does not move an electronic device conveying medium 11A-11D.

Accordingly Tsutsumi et al do not disclose a moving device which moves a strip format.

In present amendment, "the electronic devices are moved together with an entirety of the strip format" have been added to independent claim 1, in accordance with Examiner's suggestion.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 clearly is not anticipated by this reference.

Claims 3-10 have been allowed Accordingly, Applicants submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims are in allowable form. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at 703-208-4030 (direct line), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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